



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

13

Terrific Tree Hike

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(All Ages) Come take a hike through the Kennedy Forest and discover why trees are important for the forest to survive. We will also learn what role trees play in our everyday lives and try to identify some key tree species. *Naturalist: Jamaica Duane* (Reservations begin April 28.)



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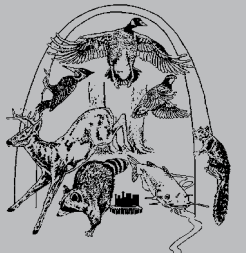


Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

May 2006

Volume 06, Number 05



Outdoor Teachers

David Bruns, Conservation Education Consultant

Educators of all types play an important role in conservation in Missouri. Teachers are able to connect their students to the natural world by creating awareness of how it works, understanding of how to sustain it and personal connections that provide the incentive to keep it thriving. Each summer, the St. Louis Outreach & Education Division offers an exciting selection of Educator Workshops for people who are pursuing an education degree, have a strong professional interest in conservation or want to enrich their teaching.

This summer an “Outdoor Skills Sampler” course, which will take place in June, will provide educators with teaching techniques and hands-on training in the skills of fishing, outdoor cooking, map and compass, archery and firearms. A “Basic Compass and Archery” workshop will also focus on teaching outdoor skills.

Workshops with strong connections to school’s science curriculum will include: “Animal Adaptations & Behavior” and “Missouri Stream Ecology.” Another workshop, “Field Tripping for Conservation,” will focus on a multidisciplinary approach to field trip planning while participants explore several local conservation areas.

Projects “WET”, “WILD” and “Learning Tree” will be offered to educators again this year in July. Designed primarily for teachers of grades K-8, this workshop will concentrate on using these nationally recognized environmental and conservation education programs, which provide students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues through hands-on activities.

Workshops such as “The Voyage of Learning Teacher’s Academy,” being offered in July, will empower educators to combine practical classroom activities with outdoor experiences. This eight-day experiential education workshop transforms Forest Park into an outdoor classroom while promoting interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning.

Conservation Education Consultants and Outdoor Skills Specialists serve as the lead instructors for these action-packed programs. In fact, several workshops including “Teaching Aquatic Education at the Forest Park Hatchery,” “Conserving and Using Missouri’s Aquatic Ecosystems” and “Conservation Beyond the Classroom II” combine practical classroom activities with outdoor skills education.

Most of these workshops take place over several days and are offered in conjunction with local universities, providing participants with opportunities to earn graduate credit hours. All of these workshops are great opportunities for teachers to get outside, have some fun and add value to their teaching efforts.

For workshop dates and information visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/development.htm>



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

6 Ladybugs
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Human infants look much like their parents. Not so with a ladybug, which goes through some amazing changes to become the bug we all know and love. Join us to discover how a ladybug gets its spots. *Volunteer Naturalist: Kristen Schulte* (Reservations begin April 24.)

6 Trail of Success
Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
(Ages 10 & up) Can you name five Missouri animals that have been taken off the endangered species list due to human intervention? On this 5-mile hike at Howell Island, listen to clues about these animals from your naturalist guides. Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch or snack. Participants will receive a nature journal at the end of the program. *Volunteer Naturalists: Angie & Aaron Jungbluth* (Reservations begin April 24.)

10 Painting the Birds
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 8 & up) In this class, we'll learn about birds, then draw our field observations and paint sketches with watercolors. *Volunteer Naturalist: Carol Jean Price* (Reservations begin April 26.)

11 Goodness Snakes Alive!
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 4-6) Are snakes slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and catch their food? Learn the answers to these questions and more as you observe live Missouri snakes and even touch some. Come prepared for a short hike to see if we can observe snakes in their habitat. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler* (Reservations begin April 27.)

13 Lewis Hike
Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Adults) Join a spring hike through the forests at Weldon Spring Conservation Area to look for wildflowers and migrating and resident songbirds. This 8.3-mile hike offers panoramic views of the Missouri River valley from the bluffs. *Volunteer Naturalist: Marvin Staloch* (Reservations begin May 1.)

13 Snakes and Lizards – Yucky or Cool?
Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) How many “poisonous” snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Find out while you observe and touch some live Missouri snakes. Come prepared for a short hike to observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler* (Reservations begin May 1.)

13 Basic Fishing
Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Learn the basics, including tying knots, casting, types of rods and reels, tackle, three types of fish found in most Missouri lakes, and how to catch, handle and release fish. Then, practice your fishing techniques. *Volunteer Naturalist: Al Newman* (Reservations begin May 1.)

17 Frogs or Toads
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Discover the wonderful world of frogs and toads. Can you hear the difference in their sounds? We will hike to the pond to catch and release tadpoles and look for frogs. *Volunteer Naturalist: Linda Lopez* (Reservations begin May 3.)

20 Kids’ Fishing Fair
Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 15 & under) Visit the exhibit booths to learn the ins and outs of fishing, then give your kids the chance to catch a fish. Bring your own equipment. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. (No reservations required.)

24 Endangered Species Near You
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Ages 10 & up) What are endangered species and do they live in Missouri? This interactive presentation will show which endangered species make the St. Louis region home. Make a mobile with ideas of how you can help these species recover. *Volunteer Naturalists: Aaron & Angie Jungbluth* (Reservation begin May 10.)

Making Tracks St. Louis Region Newsletter

Come join us at the 2006 Kids’ Fishing Fair!

Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

It’s time again for the annual Kids’ Fishing Fair! This “fin-tastic” event is especially for kids 15 years old and under. Besides tons of fishing fun, there will be lots to do and see including demonstrations on how to fillet a fish, a chance to sample fried fish, casting stations and amphibian and reptile stations! Youngsters should bring their own fishing rods and bait, although there will be a limited supply of fishing poles available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Bait will be available for purchase at the Outpost Bait & Tackle Shop on the premises. Plenty of volunteers will be on hand to assist beginners if needed. Each kid attending the Kids’ Fishing Fair will receive a free “goodie bag” with fishing gear and special offers from our sponsors. The fun takes place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles on Saturday, May 20th. Although this event is free, all participants must register at the information tent on the Lake 2 parking lot. For more information, call (636) 441-4554.



Rockwoods Reservation

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2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

6 Reptiles and Amphibians
Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 13 & up) Are you interested in reptiles and amphibians? Join us as our living ambassadors help us explore the similarities and differences between them. *Volunteer Naturalists: Glenn & Trish Senter* (Reservations begin April 24.)

6 Art in Nature
Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 7 -12) Do you want to learn how to paint or draw? Rediscover your artistic side and expand your knowledge of art and nature. We will explore the natural world through observation, painting and sketching. Artwork will be hung in Rockwoods’ classroom for all to see. *Volunteer Naturalist: Glenda Myers* (Reservations begin April 24.)

10 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees
Wednesday 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
(Scouts) Trees are fun to climb, but did you ever stop and take a closer look them? We’ll look at a tree’s growth rings, learn to identify some common trees by their leaves, and get to know our local trees a lot better. **Webelos:** Forester #3, #4; **Brownies:** Plants #2, #4; **Juniors:** Earth Connections #3, #4, #8; Science Discovery #5. *Volunteer Naturalist: Jane Deschu* (No reservations required.)

12 Understanding Bats
Friday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Come discover the myths and legends of the world of bats. You will have fun discovering all about nature’s “bug zappers.” Bats are unique and helpful mammals found in Missouri. You will discover that bats are not the horrible creatures portrayed in the movies and will assemble a bat house to attract bats to your own backyard during the programs. One bat house per family, please. *Volunteer Naturalists: Jean Favara and Angel Stahr* (Reservations begin April 28.)

13 The Songs of Spring
Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 6 & up) Spring is a time of rejuvenation, especially at the water’s edge. We will investigate the new happenings in our woodland pond as frogs and salamanders come out of hibernation. Explore the pond ecosystem for new life. The program is outdoors, so dress for a mess. *Naturalist: John Ruprecht* (Reservations begin April 28.)

19 Dutch Oven Cooking
Friday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Come try out some easy Dutch oven desserts. You don’t have to go on an outdoor trip to enjoy Dutch oven cooking, you can cook right in your own backyard! Instead of barbecuing, use a Dutch oven. Fire up the briquettes, start cooking and keep your home kitchen cool by baking in your own back yard! *Volunteer Naturalist: Jane Deschu* (Reservations begin May 5.)

25 Goodness Snakes Alive!
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 4-6) Are snakes slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and catch their food? Learn the answers to these questions and more as you observe live Missouri snakes and even touch some of them. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes in their habitat. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler* (Reservations begin May 11.)

27 Snakes and Lizards – Yucky or Cool?
Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) How many “poisonous” snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Find out the answers to these questions while learning about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. You will observe live snakes and even touch some. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler* (Reservations begin May 12.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

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801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

3 Retiree River Ramble
Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 60 & up) Seniors 60 and over will enjoy a leisurely three-hour hike along the 3-mile Levee Trail to look for meadowlarks nesting, wildflowers and native grasses. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree* (Reservations begin April 19.)

6 Birding for Beginners
Saturday 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(Ages 4 & up) Spring migration is exciting for the novice and experienced birder alike, especially along the Mississippi River flyway. Sharpen and strengthen your birding skills while looking for visiting birds. Binoculars and a field guide are strongly recommended. *Volunteer Naturalist: Colleen Crank* (Reservations begin April 22.)

6 Are You Me?
Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 2-6) Do you look like you did as a baby? Some animals undergo small changes and others undergo big changes from baby to adult. Learn about these changes in a bug’s life. Bring a current picture and a baby picture of yourself to compare. We’ll go outside to explore bug habitats, so dress for the weather. *Volunteer Naturalist: André Stanley* (Reservations begin April 22.)

13 Who Lives on the Forest Floor?
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 6-8) Sift through leaves and search the nooks and crannies of fallen logs to discover who calls these places home. You’ll see an amazing number of insects and other critters. *Volunteer Naturalist: Colleen Crank* (Reservations begin April 29.)

20 Riparian Corridors: Nature’s Highways
Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(Families) You won’t see any mile markers or speed limit signs, but you will see a variety of plants and animals that move along edges of waterways seeking food and shelter. We will explore the River’s Edge Trail. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin May 6.)

20 Discover the Treasure Bike Hike
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 12 & up) Discover the treasure that is Columbia Bottom Conservation Area on this 10-mile bike hike, half on asphalt road and half on the gravel Levee Trail. Visit nine Exploration Stations to learn about the animals, waterfowl, trees, wildflowers, grasses and crops on the area. Bring your own bicycle and water. Helmets are mandatory. Please dress for the weather. In case of inclement weather,

this event will be rescheduled for May 27. Children must attend with parents. *Volunteer Naturalist David Petree* (Reservations begin May 6.)

24 Storybooks Outdoors
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.
(Children of All Ages) Meet at the Confluence Platform for a simple story about a newborn deer, then enjoy the confluence during a short walk along the River’s Edge Trail. In case of rain, we’ll meet at the Visitor Center. *Naturalist Program Supervisor: Colleen Scott* (Reservations begin May 10.)

25 Babes in the Woods
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
(Ages 0-3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! Use your senses to explore natural wonders on this stroller walk. Older siblings are also welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin May 11.)

27 From Caterpillar to Captivating: The Life of a Butterfly
Saturday Noon – 1:30 p.m.
(Ages 6 & up) Take a journey through the life of the butterfly. Learn how they grow, what they eat and how to identify them. We’ll also explore the many different kinds of butterflies that live at Columbia Bottom. *Trail Ranger: Fontania Brown* (Reservations begin May 13.)

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

Photographer and poet Drew A. Foster is an adjunct English instructor at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. While the majority of his work is inspired by nature, he is also exploring combining photographic processes and compositing photographs. Additionally, incorporating images and text combine his two major interests in communication: if a picture is worth a thousand words and some words evoke thousands of pictures, what is communicated by combining both? Most recently he has been investigating video art. His most recent exhibits included Elsayh, Ill., in July 2005 and the Midwest Society for Photographic Education juried student exhibit held October 2005 in St. Louis.